

SPIDER-MAN

15¢ 86
JULY



MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

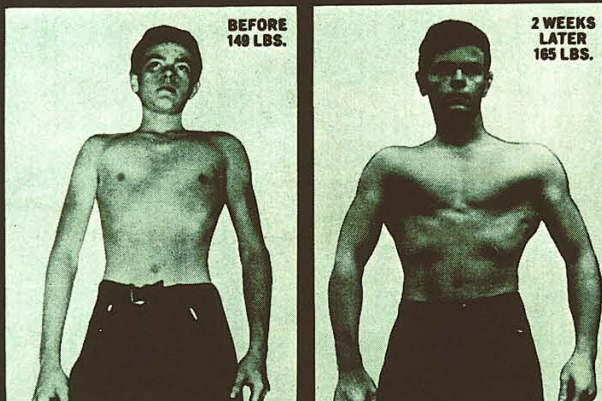
APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
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AUTHORITY



**BEWARE
THE
BLACK WIDOW!**

Another JOE WEIDER breakthrough:

THE END OF THE SKINNY BODY.



GAINS UP TO 16 POUNDS IN 14 DAYS—
adds 2 1/4" to each arm, 2 1/4" to his chest!

Walter Leno of Burlington, VT. reported these fantastic gains in 14 days! Gains 16 pounds, added 2 1/4" to each arm, 2 1/4" to his chest, 1 1/4" to each leg. See what a fresher, more exciting fun-going body he now has—thanks to **Crash Weight Formula #7**. He says: "All I did was follow the plan and drink a few small glasses of delicious **Crash Weight Formula #7**—and the improvement I made in just 14 days was beyond my wildest dreams!" Shouldn't this happen to you?

Nobody likes a bag of bones

Flesh out your bones. Fill out your narrow, shallow chest. Your skinny arms. And spindly legs. Here's a totally new breed of nutritional "wildcat" drink that's guaranteed to put an end to your muscle-starved, hungry-looking body. Joe Weider's **Crash-Weight Formula #7** is a new scientifically-blended milkshake-flavored drink that lets you drink on as much as up to 14 pounds in 14 days the easy, the delicious, the relaxed way. Just drink 4 zesty glasses of **Crash-Weight** natural organic with your regular meals and take in up to 3500 extra calories a day. (It's the calories that count when you want to put on some handsome weight!) And **Crash-Weight** does all the work for you. Piling on the pounds and the weight as the days go by. Check the plan you want in the coupon.

Guaranteed to put weight on you and create a new—fresher—more exciting fun-going you or money back!

The Do-It-Yourself Gain-A-Pound-A-Day Kit

This is a 1 day supply of **Crash Weight**, chock full of weight-gaining nutrients that can smash the weight-gaining barrier! You want to gain a pound a day? Half a pound a day? Maybe you just want to add a few pounds here and there? You want it easily—enjoyably—without stuffing yourself with heavy-laden foods. Now you can. It's as simple as drinking a delicious milkshake.



FREE.

Weight-Gaining and Muscle-Building Course. This 48-page Illustrated Guide sent FREE with each **Crash-Weight Formula #7** Kit. Gammed with step-by-step instructions in muscle-building and weight-gaining basics. Filled with all the latest ideas and how to adapt them for your own personal, fun-going weight gains!



Fill in this Gain-A-Pound-A-Day-or-Your-Money-Back Guarantee Coupon

JOE WEIDER, Dept. 83-60K10
Care of Customers, Inc. 100
531-32nd St., Union City, N.J. 07087

(West of the Rockies)
Harris Publications, Inc.
Box 1687
Santa Monica, Calif. 90406

Dear Joe:

I want to put an end to my skinny body and have everyone compliment me on my athletic appearance and muscular gains. Rush me the "pound-a-day" **Crash-Weight Formula #7** package I have checked below.

Check Plan & Flavor Desired:

☐ 7-Day Supply... \$ 7.50 ☐ Chocolate

☐ 14-Day Supply... \$14.98 ☐ Vanilla

If it doesn't work, I want my money back. OK?

NAME _____ AGE _____

ADDRESS _____

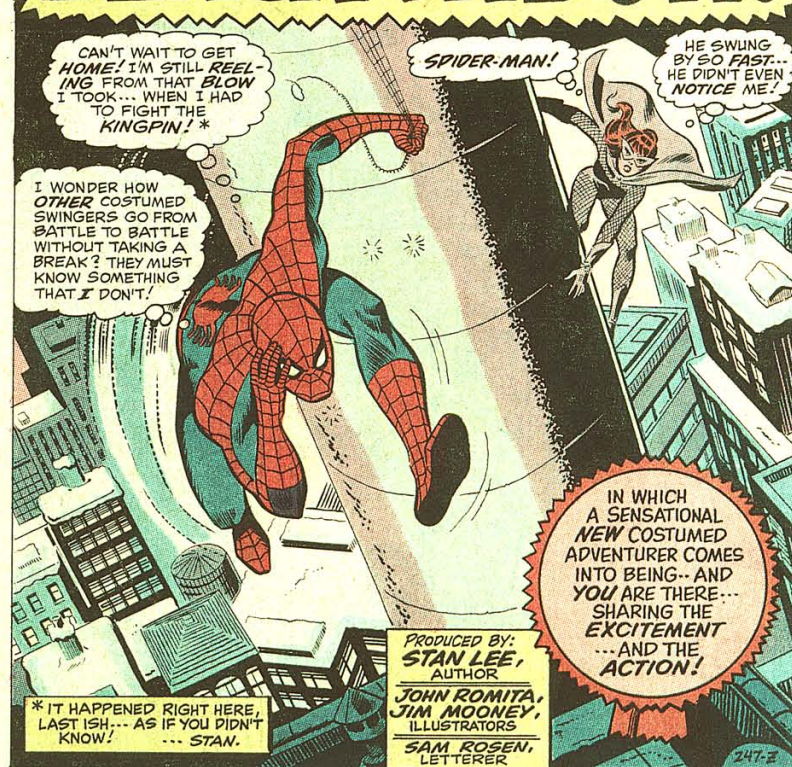
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Canadian orders filled in Canada—no duty to pay.

APR or FPO N.Y. or S.F.
CRASH-WEIGHT (7 Day) .30 \$1.75
CRASH-WEIGHT (14 Day) 1.50 2.75

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!

BEWARE... THE BLACK WIDOW!



CAN'T WAIT TO GET HOME! I'M STILL REELING FROM THAT BLOW I TOOK... WHEN I HAD TO FIGHT THE KINGPIN! *

I WONDER HOW OTHER COSTUMED SWINGERS GO FROM BATTLE TO BATTLE WITHOUT TAKING A BREAK? THEY MUST KNOW SOMETHING THAT I DON'T!

SPIDER-MAN!

HE SWUNG BY SO FAST... HE DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE ME!

IN WHICH A SENSATIONAL NEW COSTUMED ADVENTURER COMES INTO BEING... AND YOU ARE THERE... SHARING THE EXCITEMENT... AND THE ACTION!

PRODUCED BY:
STAN LEE,
AUTHOR

JOHN ROMITA,
JIM MOONEY,
ILLUSTRATORS

SAM ROSEN,
LETTERER

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* LONG-TIME MARVELITES WILL REMEMBER THESE, AND THE FOLLOWING SEQUENCES, FROM MANY OF OUR OLDER MAGS, TOO NUMEROUS TO LIST! BESIDES, I FORGOT THE ISSUE NUMBERS! --- STAN.

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

SKIN SURFACE DISFIGURED BY PIMPLES? BLACKHEADS? FRECKLES?

Blemishes Fade As Skin Clears



AMAZING NEW SKIN CREAM SO POWERFUL
IT STARTS HELPING TO CLEAR EPIDERMIS
THE INSTANT APPLIED!

Works with Nature Replacing Epidermis Marked by
Surface Pimples and Blackheads with a New
Fresh, Clearer, Softer, Smoother Complexion!

It takes POWER to dry up pimples... to loosen blackheads... to fade freckles... to clear away blemished epidermis (skin surface). So why mess around with watery lotions, weak medicated make-ups... smelly salves and greasy ointments when it's **FAYD SKIN CREAM** that you need. Fayd contains a powerful clearing and skin whitening discovery that works strong and fast on the externally caused pimples, blackheads, blemishes, marks, freckles and spots that blot and dot the top skin layer. In 7 days Fayd may make your complexion so much more clear, fair and blemish free you want to jump for happiness. Fayd makes the skin softer, smoother and more glowing with the fresh new look of youth. And occasional use of Fayd helps keep your skin looking more lovely everyday to your pride and joy.

JUST TRY FOR 7 NIGHTS



**FOLLOW
EASY DIRECTIONS**

Read booklet and do exactly
as it says. It's easy... and so
rewarding!



**SPREAD ON
THIN FILM**

Just apply over face, neck or
affected area for 7 nights...



**WORKS
WHILE YOU SLEEP**

Then see amazing, clear
results or return for your
money back!



SEND FOR YOUR DEMONSTRATION TODAY

If the pimple cream you are using works too slow, don't wait but send for Fayd Skin Cream. Let this actual home demonstration show you what Fayd is... how it works fast... and why so many boys, girls, men and women use it, for outbreaks... for freckles... for lightening, brightening and clearing the skin. Fayd acts on both oily skin areas around the nose and also on dry skin areas. It refines enlarged pores. Helps stop many new blemishes before they start. So take advantage of this amazing home demonstration offer. Mail the coupon today.

MAIL THIS NO-RISK COUPON

Fayd, called by many "nature's clear skin cream", is pure white and won't stain pillows. Delightful, easy, it has no medicated odor, washes off completely, leaves skin feeling so new that make-up looks far more natural... if you need make-up at all! For your trial and approval we offer the full size 3 oz. jar Fayd for only \$3.00 full price postpaid. Use the entire supply and then if you aren't satisfied, simply return the empty jar for your money back. Accept this test at our risk offer. Clip the coupon, and mail today.

IMPORTANT

If the coupon has already been clipped, send order with your name and address. Ask for Fayd's \$3.00 Trial Offer. Mail to Fleetwood Co., Dept. D 87, 427 W. Randolph St., Chicago, Illinois 60606.

THE FLEETWOOD CO. Dept. D-87

427 W. Randolph St.
Chicago, Illinois 60606

Send the 3 oz. jar of FAYD SKIN CREAM as checked below.
As advertised, you guarantee I can return the empty jar at
any time and you will refund my purchase price.

- ☐ \$3.00 enclosed. Send postage paid.
☐ Enclosed is \$1.00 deposit. Send C.O.D. for balance of
\$2.00 plus postage.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip Code _____

"THOUGH WE BOTH **KNEW**
OUR ROMANCE WAS **HOPE-
LESS** FROM THE START...
FATE HAD TURNED TWO
ENEMIES INTO THE STAR-
CROSSED **LOVERS**!"

I'LL NEVER FORGET
YOU, NATASHA...
NEVER!



"THEN, IN AN EFFORT TO
ESCAPE... TO LOSE MY
HEARTBREAK IN THE SEETH-
ING WHIRLPOOL OF **ADVEN-
TURE**, I SERVED THE **AVEN-
GERS**... AND THE DEDICATED
AGENTS OF NICK FURY'S
SHIELD..."

DON'T TRY TO
WARN ME OF
DANGER! I
WANT THE
ASSIGNMENT!



"HOW COULD I HAVE **KNOWN**... HOW
COULD I HAVE **SUSPECTED**...
THAT MY EFFORTS WOULD
CONTRIBUTE TO THE
DEATH OF... THE **RED
GUARDIAN**...?"



"...THE
MAN WHO
HAD BEEN
... MY OWN
HUSBAND!"

"FINALLY, I COULD BEAR THE
TORMENT NO LONGER! I
HAD TO **LEAVE**... TO FLEE
FROM EVERYTHING, FROM
EVERYONE WHO WAS A
LINK TO MY TRAGIC, GUILT-
RIDDEN **PAST**..."

I MUSTN'T
TURN BACK!
I MUSTN'T...
EVER... TURN
BACK!



BUT NOW I KNOW THAT
LIVING A LIFE OF EASE
AND LUXURY AS THE
WEALTHY, PLEASURE-
SEEKING **MADAME
NATASHA**, IS NOT
THE **ANSWER** FOR ME!

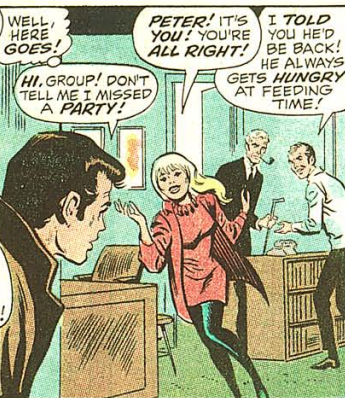
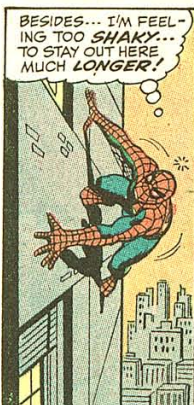


I'VE BECOME
A LEADER OF
THE **JET-SET**...
AND I'VE **HATED**
EVERY MOMENT
OF IT!

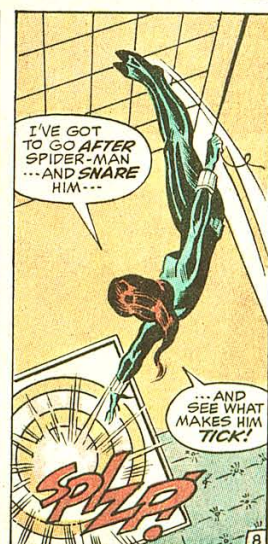
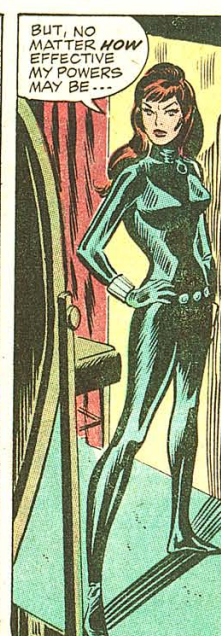
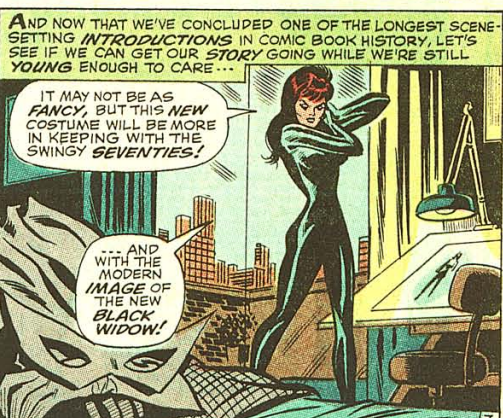
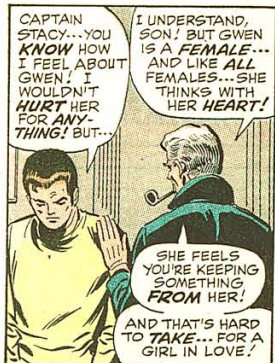
I'VE **GOT** TO BECOME...
THE **BLACK WIDOW**
ONCE AGAIN!

I'VE **GOT** TO DO WHAT
I DO **BEST**... TO FULFILL
MY **DESTINY**... TO HELP
ME FORGET... THE
HAUNTED **PAST!**





CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE





IF HIS POWERS SHOULD PROVE TO BE GREATER THAN MINE!

I'VE GOT TO LEARN HOW... AND WHY!



WHATEVER HIS SECRET MAY BE, I'VE GOT TO FIND IT...



...AND USE IT... FOR THE BENEFIT OF... THE NEW BLACK WIDOW!



AND SO, MY FIRST TASK MUST BE... TO FIND SPIDER-MAN!

AND THEN, WHEN I DO...



I MUST PROVE MYSELF HIS EQUAL...

...OR LEARN THE REASON WHY!



LATER, AT THE OFFICE OF THE DAILY BUGLE...

SPIDER-MAN, SWINGING PAST... NO!

IT ISN'T THE WALL-CRAWLER! IT'S A GIRL! COPPING HIS ACT!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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Make \$1 to \$6 WEEKLY
in your spare time
and WIN DANDY PRIZES Too!

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Age _____ Date Born _____ Year _____
In care of _____
Street or R. D. _____
Post Office _____
State _____ Zip _____
Please Print Your Last Name Plainly Below

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AMERICA'S GREATEST FAMILY NEWSPAPER

APPROVED FOR VETERANS

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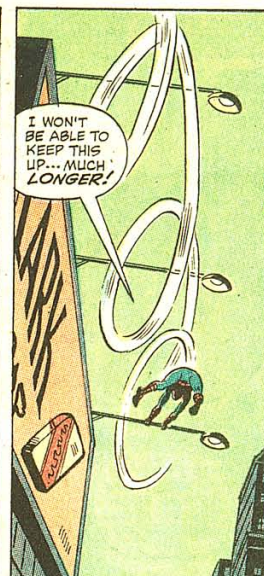
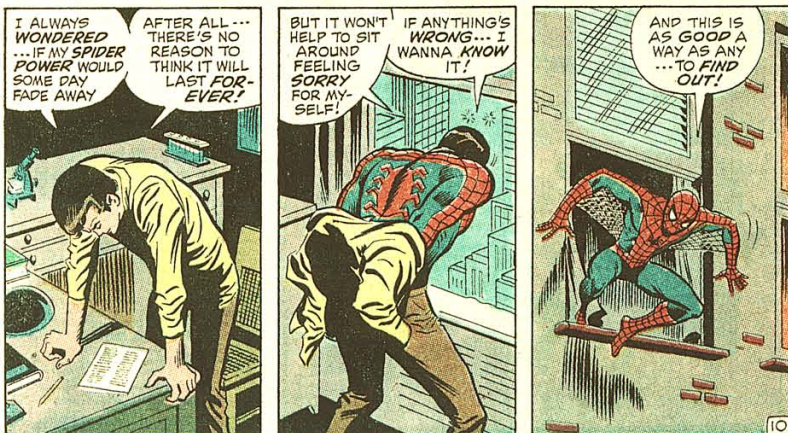
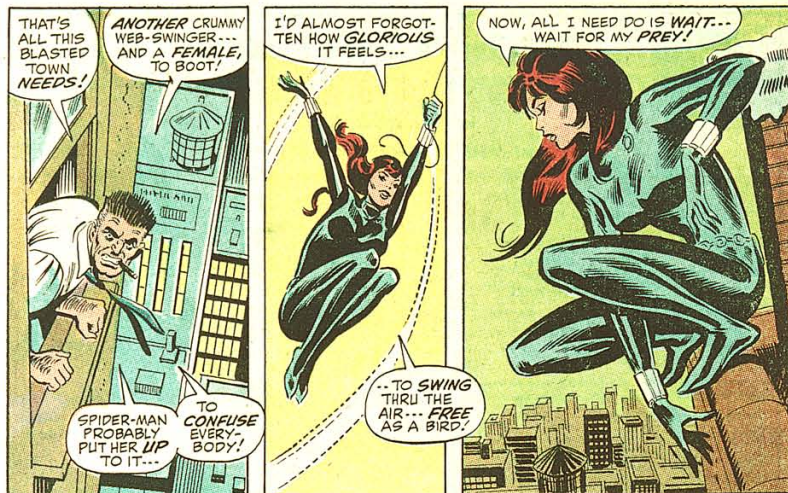
Big Promotion!
I was promoted from the production line ahead of 4 others and got a good pay raise! — W. A. Wink

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NAME _____ AGE _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
A home study program in association with Cleveland Engineering Inst.





AND, AS SPIDER-MAN SILENTLY GLIDES TOWARDS THE MODEST LITTLE FRAME HOUSE IN FOREST HILLS...

I'M SURE THAT THIS HOT MILK AND COOKIES WILL HELP YOU TO SLEEP, MAY DEAR!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT CAN BE KEEPING ME AWAKE TO-NIGHT, ANNA...

UNLESS IT'S THE FACT THAT I HAVEN'T HEARD FROM PETER LATELY!

I KNOW I SHOULDN'T WORRY, BUT...

SHE'S SURE TO BE ASLEEP AT THIS HOUR, BUT I'LL ASK ANNA WATSON IF... OH NO! IT'S HER! SHE SEES ME!

ANNA!

YES, MAY?

AT THE WINDOW! THERE'S... A FACE!

12



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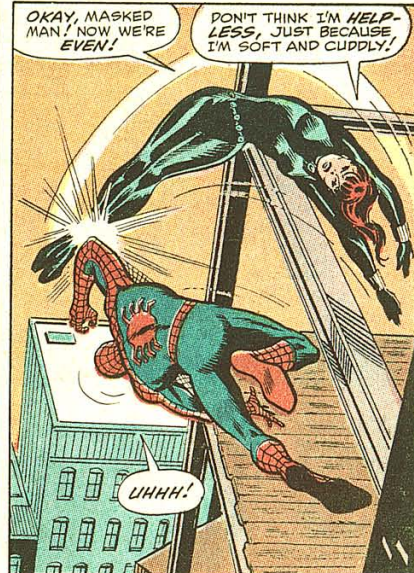
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To introduce our BETTER U.S. APPROVALS we offer 15 of the most wanted U.S. stamps, including a Columbian, Bi-cent, Army-Navy, Famous American, Airs and other Comems. for only 10¢.
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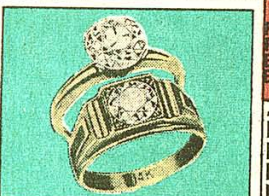
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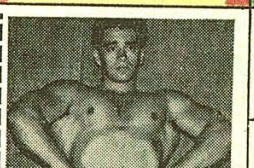
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Address _____
City _____ State _____
Age _____ Zip Code _____

COMIC LIST - NO. 3
SEND A STAMPED SELF
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BROOKLYN, N.Y. 11211



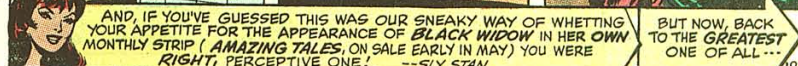
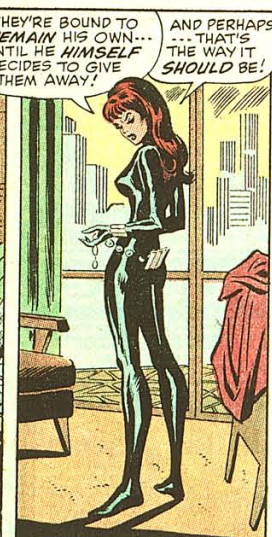
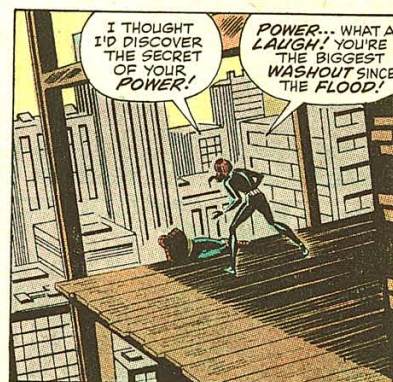
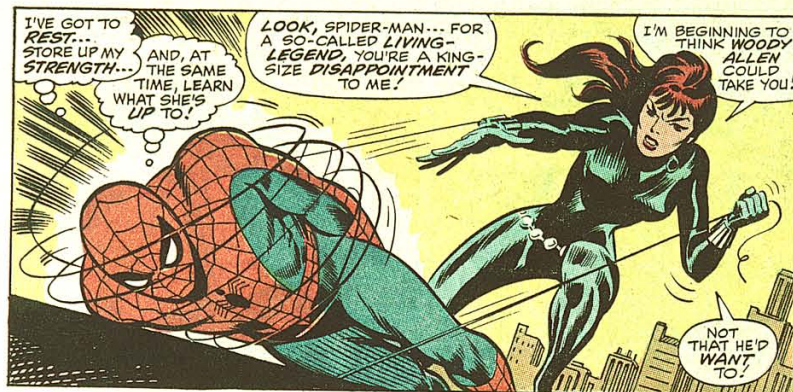
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CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE



WELL, I
MANAGED
TO GET
HER OFF
MY BACK...



BUT IT WAS
LUCKY FOR ME
... THAT SHE DIDN'T
WANT A RETURN
MATCH!

IT TOOK ALL THE WILL-
POWER I COULD
MUSTER... NOT TO
TOSS IN THE SPONGE
BACK THERE!



I THOUGHT FRESH AIR--
AND EXERCISE-- WOULD
GET ME BACK IN
SHAPE...



BUT... I
CAN'T KID
MYSELF ANY
LONGER!



AND IT'S SOME-
THING NO AMOUNT
OF WEB-SWINGING
WILL CURE!



HAVE TO GET
HOME... SOON
AS POSSIBLE...



--WHILE I CAN
STILL MAKE
IT... ON MY
OWN!



MUST TAKE THE CHANCE
THAT HARRY WILL
BE... ASLEEP!



BECAUSE...
EVEN IF HE
ISN'T...

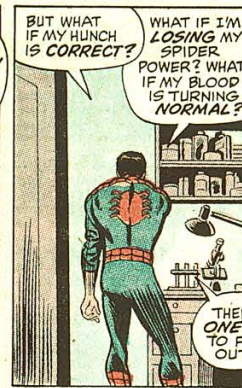
I COULDN'T
MAKE IT...
BACK OUT
AGAIN!

19



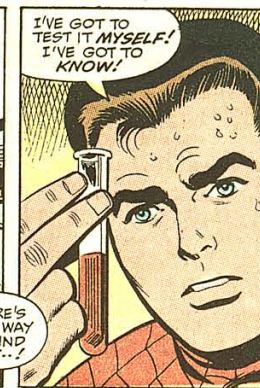
LATER... AFTER A BRIEF REST...
IF I GO TO A
DOCTOR...
HE MIGHT
WANT TO
CHECK MY
BLOOD!

IT'S THE ONE
THING I FEAR!
THE ONE THING
... THAT COULD
REVEAL MY
SECRET!



BUT WHAT
IF MY HUNCH
IS CORRECT?

WHAT IF I'M
LOSING MY
SPIDER
POWER? WHAT
IF MY BLOOD
IS TURNING
NORMAL?



I'VE GOT TO
TEST IT MYSELF!
I'VE GOT TO
KNOW!

THERE'S
ONE WAY
TO FIND
OUT...



AND
SO...

JUST ONE
PROP... HERE
ON THE SLIDE...



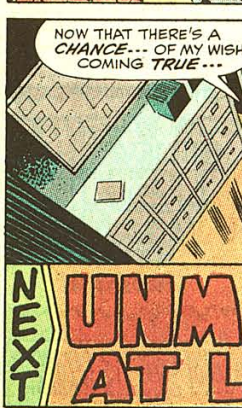
NOW... ALL I HAVE TO
DO IS LOOK... TO
LEARN WHETHER I'LL
BE SPIDER-MAN
... NO LONGER!



WHY CAN'T I
DO IT? WHY
AM I STALL-
ING THIS
WAY?



AFTER ALL THESE YEARS...
WHEN I'VE SECRETLY WISHED
I COULD BE NORMAL...
LIKE EVERYONE ELSE...



NOW THAT THERE'S A
CHANCE... OF MY WISH
COMING TRUE...



IS THAT
WHAT I'M
REALLY
AFRAID
OF?

NEXT **UNMASKED
AT LAST!**

20



THE SPIDER'S WEB

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO:

THE MARVEL COMICS GROUP, SECOND FLOOR 625 MADISON AV., NEW YORK, N. Y. 10022

Dear Stan, John, Jim, and other things that go bump in the night. Lately, there's been a lot of talk about sending good ol' Peley into the armed forces. I think it's a great idea. Most people are impressed with what will happen during Pete's stay in the service. I would rather ponder upon what it will be like when he returns.

He could come back to find:

JJJ is editing THE NEW YORK ENQUIRER; the Lizard has opened a wallet factory; the Shocker has a short circuit; the Kingpin opens a restaurant; Medusa tries rollers; someone makes a castle out of the Sandman; Doc Ock accidentally strangles himself; Electro opens a TV repair shop; Kraven gets kicked out of the National Rifle Association; the Vulture runs into a convention of chicken pluckers; and... Mysterio gets lung cancer from "smoking" too much; and Steve Ditko returns.

Also: Subby uses water wings (Imperious Wrecks); Bulk stomps; Loki tosses Ragna ROCKS at Thor; Thor battles Maxwell's Silver Hammer; Daredevil trips on a roller skate; Black Bolt talks to Stan about a comic for the Inhumans; Jim Steranko gets locked in a safe; a beer can falls in love with Iron Man; Sarge Fury gets a dishonorable discharge; Don goes to Heck with himself; Franklin Benjamin Richards finds out that he has the power to lash people with his orange brick invisible flaming elastic tongue; Balder gets bolder even; Galactus get heartburn; the Recorder gets his tape tangled and tries cassettes; J. R. R. Tolkien sues you; Johnny and Crystal get married and have a flaming, elementary rubber band; Jack Kirby runs out of cigars; the Wrecker is hired to tear down 625 Madison Ave.; Stan's artistic license is revoked; and I run out of jokes and end this crazy letter!

R.F.O., K.O.F., Q.N.S. Peter Parrella, 246 45th St. Brooklyn, N.Y. 11220

Okay, Pete, you've had your say. Now we'll just have to wait and see if all-or some-or any-of your pandemonium pre-cognitions come true. But, since they all hinge upon Peter Parker's going into the service for a couple of years—well, by that time, Stan and John will certainly have had time enough to think up a clever answer to your letter—something along the lines of "Coincidence! They're all coincidences!" See ya then, chum.

Dear Stan and John,

SPIDER-MAN #83 astounded me. The art was at its best since Ditko left, even better than Johnny Romita's earlier efforts. Pages ten through twelve shocked me out of my mind—I thought Gwen had had it. Mary Jane's reference to "Easy Rider" on page ten brought the story even closer to reality (by the way, if you haven't, see the show—it's great). The story was a carefully-spun masterpiece, one of Marvel's best. The death of the Kingpin's son—the introduction of his wife—and the fact that harm to someone he had loved motivated him as much as it did Spidey later in the story, made him all the more real to me. Finally, Pete's worries and wondering about the Viet Nam War—and fighting an enemy he didn't even hate—struck home. Thanks also for the inclusion of Mary Jane Watson—she's as much a dreamboat as ever. Finally, as the story ends, I'm still wondering as much as Pete about what lies ahead in his life.

Skipping ahead to "The Spider's Web", Jean Laidig probably didn't consider the other possible result of a blood transfusion.

In the past, Pete gave his aunt a transfusion, and for several issues she was on the brink of death from radiation poisoning. Also, as you've probably guessed, the idea of a Spider-Girl doesn't grab me at all.

Lester Boultillier's letter almost had me laughing—not at his philosophy, but how things like this can get started due to a minor oversight on your part. There's an instant remedy to stop this debate before it gets to name-calling: state as you did that Pete has kissed Gwen in the past, and have a bit more necking in your stories. I'm sure Pete is "normal" (whatever that is) and realizes there's nothing "immoral" about displaying one's affection with a kiss.

Your stories are closer to reality than ever before. You're doing great—keep it up!

Nils Osmar, 1504 N. 85th St. Seattle, Wash. 98103

There's little we can say in reply to your laudatory letter, Nils, except to vote you our Favorite Critic of the Month award—and assure you that the notion of a Spider-Girl doesn't exactly hit us where we live, either. And, to judge from the letters we've received over the past few years, it would seem that for once the Marvel Bullpen isn't in the minority!

Dear Stan and John,

Maybe it's none of my business, but, looking over some back issues of SPIDER-MAN, I've discovered some new old sub-plots you can tease the readers with.

First: what ever happened to Liz Allen (remember her)? Perhaps you can slyly ease her into Spidey's life again. Not forever—just for a couple of issues.

Second: the return of [get this] PATCH! I know, I know, Foswell is dead. But maybe some distant supporting character can get into the act. Just imagine it! The biggest mystery in comics since the Green Goblin crises!

Well, there you have it. Don't blame me—you asked for suggestions!

Vito Marangi Jr., 1742 Hendrickson St. Brooklyn, N.Y. 11234

And we keep getting them, friend, from the four corners of this ravaged earth of ours. Nor would we want it any other way.

In other words, thanks for the ideas—we've mentally filed them away—and if either a new Patch or the old Liz Allen pops up again in some future issue, you'll be able to point with pride to this letter and tell your buddies, "I told you so!" If you haven't forgotten it yourself by that time, that is!



KNOW YE THESE, THE HALLOWED RANKS OF MARVELDOM:

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T.T.B. (Titanic True Believer)—A divinely-inspired "No-Prize" winner.
Q.N.S. (Quite 'Nuff Saver)—A fortunate frantic one who's had a letter printed.

K.O.F. (Keeper Of the Flame)—One who recruits a newcomer to Marvel's rollickin' ranks.
P.M.M. (Permanent Marvelite Maximus)—Anyone possessing all four of the other titles.
F.F.F. (Fearless Front-Facer)—An honorary title bestowed for devotion to Marvel above and beyond the call of duty.

Dear Stan and John,

Methinks you're pulling another fast one. So, you intend to try using periods instead of exclamation points, eh? Like maybe in SPIDER-MAN #82, already? I think that's no-prize material—if someone didn't spot it already. Oh, well, I can dream—

Now, for the story—to be more precise, now for the finish. "Maybe Spider-Man's career has just been one big defeat... and I've just been too blind to notice." I'm sorry I'm Spider-Man, Boo-hoo-hoo!

Peter is one of my favorite characters, but I wish he'd come off it. Why doesn't he ask someone else how much of a useless failure he's been—someone like Colonel John Jameson, or Dr. Curtis Connors, or Hobie Brown? Why doesn't he think of Norman Osborne? Why doesn't he consider all the support he has been able to give Aunt May with his earnings as a top photographer? Doesn't he realize that without that job (made possible with the help of his spider powers) he would probably have had to drop out of high school? To top it off, it is his career as a hero that has given him the dynamic personality that made him his closest friends (see #38, page 10, panel 8).

Oh well, I suppose it isn't fair to expect a flat-broke fellow with a ruined costume and a pair of sore hands to take the optimistic view. Still, he has a whole month to recover, so please snap him out of it!

One more thing: I suppose Jameson will get off again, but I think he's gone too far this time! Shouldn't he catch it—just a little—for putting that audience in danger?

Michael J. Susko Jr., 96 S. 17th St. San Jose, Cal. 95112

Probably he should, Mike—and the fact that he didn't is perhaps another instance of the injustice which our wall-crawler sometimes feels is assaulting him from all sides.

It's one of the truisms of life that there are many people who can remember only their defeats, and never their triumphs—and 'twould appear that Peter Parker, besieged as he has been by more problems than you can shake a web at, has at least one booted foot planted firmly in their camp.

To pull him out, it would take more than a batch of testimonials from the John Jamesons or the Hobie Browns of the world. It might take the love of Glenn Stacy—the respect of a suspicious world—and most of all, time, time, time! Will he ever make it? Stick around and see, pal. One thing is for certain—if you keep reading our Spidey-sagas long enough, you're bound to be surprised by something that Stan and John dream up!



Dear Stan and John,

If Electro can be short-circuited by touching his hands and feet, as shown in SPIDER-MAN #82, then how does he cut his toe-nails?

P.M.M. Matt Ohmes, Box 905 Perryton, Texas 79070

Rubber gloves?

Dear Stan and John,

SPIDER-MAN is too mushy lately—let's have less love and more action. There is always something like a vial of germs or something which seems to keep Spidey from really tearing into a baddie.

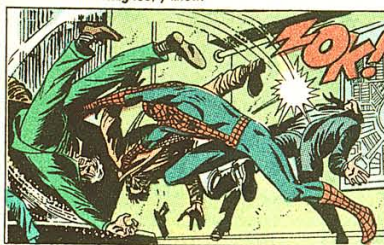
Next ish., let's have a little violence, all right?

Marvel Forever!

Keith Sterne, 936 Central Beach Bldg., Miss.

Keith, we've never been lovers of violence for its own sake. We at the Bullpen prefer what we define as "action"—in other words, a lot of things going on (and not excluding some rousing fistfights) but not necessarily the excessive use of what the mass media today call "violence". We try to achieve a balance between action and human interest—and, if we don't always succeed in our aim, at least we're in there trying.

To tell the truth, though, it doesn't exactly seem from here as if Spidey's been sitting around twiddling his webs, though. Are you sure you weren't rifling thru a copy of OUR LOVE STORY instead? After all, jazzy Johnny Romita does a bit of awesome artwork for that mag too, y'know.



Dear Stan and John,

Merry Christmas! Boy, did you guys ever give us Marvelites a gift to be remembered for years! I'm talking about SPIDER-MAN #82. It was great! Out of all the SPIDEYS I have—which happens to be a complete set—none of them (except for #33) has given me such reading pleasure. The story was not as awe-inspiring as that in #33, but the combination of a very good story, the fantastic artwork of John, and the return of the one-hundred-plus panel story (124, to be exact) made SPIDER-MAN #82 a masterpiece. I also enjoyed the return to flashback scenes during the first few pages.

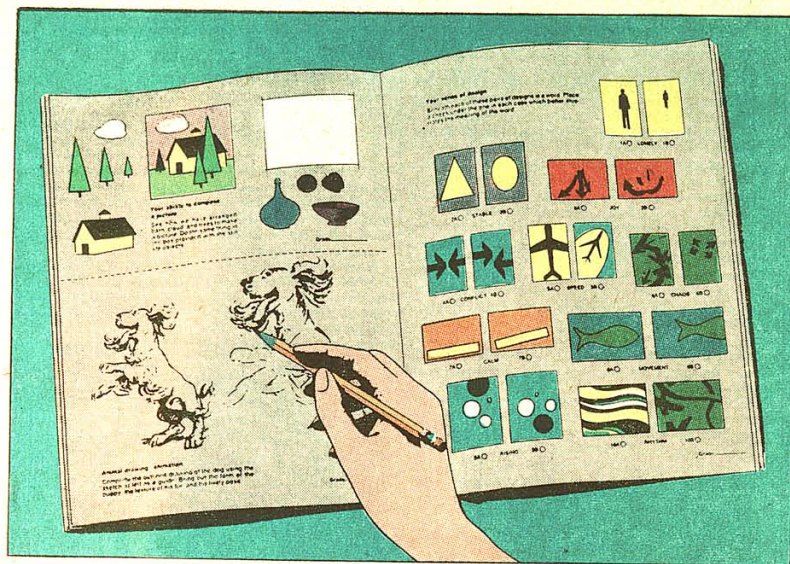
I hate to be a thorn in your sides, but one mistake which has slipped by everyone ought to be brought up—even though I don't know how you'll work your way out of it. Remember Norman Osborne? As the Green Goblin, he was one of Spidey's best villains. Well, Spider-Man is supposed to be the only one who knows that Norman Osborne was the Green Goblin.

But, in SPIDER-MAN #26, the Crime-Master said, "You'll do nothing! Not so long as I have the proof of your real identity locked in a safe deposit vault! If I'm ever found dead, the police will open the vault and learn who..." All right, explain how his identity is still a mystery? Crime-Master died in #27.

Well, have fun!

Joe Sykora, 7428 Satsuma Sun Valley, Cal. 91352

Joe, we considered about a zillion trifling answers to your question when we first saw your letter. For instance, since the infamous Crime-Master turned out to be a nameless nobody, it might just be that the police couldn't open his safe deposit vault—because it wasn't listed under anybody's name. Then, though, it hit us that that was entirely too light an answer to your question. And, since we have no other response up our sleeves, all we can do is say that there's the possibility of a future Spidey story in there somewhere—and that maybe, just maybe, one of these days we'll see what it is. And if we don't, well, just assume that of C-M was bluffing and let it go at that, huh? Please?



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